



# **PCT**

# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference M/42257-PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)						
International application No. PCT/EP2003/003746	International filing date (day/ 10 April 2003 (10.0		Priority date (day/month/year) 11 April 2002 (11.04.2002)				
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C08G 2/08							
Applicant BASF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT							
1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.  2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.  □ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).  These annexes consist of a total of sheets.  3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:  I □ Basis of the report  II □ Priority  III □ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability  IV □ Lack of unity of invention  V □ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement							
Cortain defects in t	Contain defeats in the international application						
VII Certain defects in the international application  VIII Certain observations on the international application							
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Date of submission of the demand 07 November 2003 (07.		Date of completion of this report  13 April 2004 (13.04.2004)					
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Auti	norized officer					
Facsimile No.	Tele	phone No.					



Intel nal application No.

# PCT/EP2003/003746

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41 :	internation se elemen the lan the lan the lan	to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.  Its were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language  Insurance of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).  Inguage of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).  Inguage of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/					
or 55.3).  3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:							
		ned in the international application in written form.					
	filed to	ogether with the international application in computer readable form.					
		hed subsequently to this Authority in written form.					
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	interna	statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the ational application as filed has been furnished.					
		tatement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has furnished.					
4.	The at	mendments have resulted in the cancellation of:					
		the description, pages					
	Ħ	the claims, Nos.					
	Ħ	the drawings, sheets/fig					
5.	This re	eport has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go d the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**					
in	_	t sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to ort as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16					
** An	y replacei	ment sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.					

#### INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

Internal application No.
PCT/EP 03/03746

v.	Reasoned statement under Article 3 citations and explanations supporting		relty, inventive step or industrial applica	ability;
1.	Statement			
	Novelty (N)	Claims	1-9	YES
		Claims		NO
	Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-9	YES
		Claims		NO NO
	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-9	YES
		Claims		NO

### 2. Citations and explanations

#### 1. Cited document

D1: US-A-5 089 536 (PALAZZOTTO MICHAEL C) 18 February 1992 (1992-02-18).

### 2. Novelty

The present application relates to a method for producing polyoxymethylene by bringing a formaldehyde source into contact with a catalyst having a central atom of group VIII and a cyclooctadiene ligand (formula I) (claim 1) or (Ir(III)CpCl<sub>2</sub>Ir(III)CpCl)CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> (claim 9).

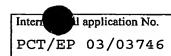
D1 discloses a method for producing polyoxymethylene, but does not disclose any catalysts with cyclooctadiene ligands or any binuclear iridium catalyst.

Consequently, the subject matter of claims 1-9 of the present application is novel.

#### 3. Inventive step

D1 is regarded as the closest prior art.

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The present application differs from the subject matter of D1 in that different catalysts are used.

The problem to be solved by the present application was that of providing a method for producing polyoxymethylene with a short induction time (see page 2, lines 20-25 of the description).

This problem was solved by using catalysts of formula I and by the binuclear iridium catalyst (see examples).

D1 does not suggest this solution.

Consequently, the subject matter of claims 1-9 involves an inventive step.